

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the claims, specification and drawings.

Claims

In response to the Office Action mailed November 8, 2006, independent claim 1 has been amended.

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-18 are pending.

It is respectfully submitted that each and every feature recited in the amended drawing, specification and/or amended claims are fully supported in the specification as filed. No new subject matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112

The Office Action rejected claims 1 through 18 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as being non-enabling for omitting essential steps. The Office Action argues that the step of heating the thermo-plastic tubular structure with the metal conduit is missing from the claims.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 through 18 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. The Office Action argues the omitted steps are: the thermo-plastic tubular structure being heated with the metal conduit.

Claims 1 - 18

Applicants hereby amend independent claim 1 to clarify the heating step to overcome the rejection, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a gas distribution channel, said gas distribution channel being configured for introducing a plasma source gas into a plasma processing chamber of a plasma processing system, comprising:
 - providing a metal conduit;
 - providing a thermo-plastic tubular structure;
 - disposing said thermo-plastic tubular structure within said metal conduit;
 - heating ~~the~~ said metal conduit, containing said thermo-plastic tubular structure disposed within, to a first temperature;
 - pressurizing said thermo-plastic tubular structure causing said thermo-plastic tubular structure to mechanically couple with said metal conduit wherein an outer surface of said thermo-plastic tubular structure is longitudinally coupled with an inner surface of said metal conduit;
 - cooling ~~the~~ said thermo-plastic tubular structure to a second temperature that is below the melting point of thermo-plastic material of said thermo-plastic tubular structure; and
 - injecting a resin material between ~~the~~ said metal conduit and the thermo-plastic tubular structure after ~~the~~ said cooling.

Support for the amendment can be found, for example and without limitation, in paragraph [0058] and FIGs. 7A and 7B in this application. In the specification as filed, it is pointed out that the metal conduit containing the thermo-plastic tubular structure is first heated to a first temperature and the thermo-plastic tubular structure is cooled down (i.e., going to a higher temperature first with the metal conduit containing the thermo-plastic tubular structure, and then reducing or cooling the temperature of the thermo-plastic tubular structure to a lower temperature) before the resin material is injected.

It should be noted that, in the manner claimed in amended claim 1, the heating is applied to the metal conduit containing the thermo-plastic tubular structure, while the cooling step is applied with respect to the thermo-plastic tubular structure. Thus, there is

a heating step applied to one structure (i.e., the metal conduit) and a cooling step applied to a different structure (i.e., the thermo-plastic tubular structure).

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn since it has been amended to be in compliant with 35 USC 112 first and second paragraphs.

It is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims that depend from amended claim 1 are also novel, nonobvious, and patentable not only due to their recitations of independently patentable features but also due to their dependence from the patentable parent amended claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the discussion herein, Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at 408-257-5500.

If any petition is required to facilitate the entry of the present amendment, please consider this communication a petition therefore as well. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees beyond the amount enclosed which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2284 (Order No. LMRX-P026/P1068).

Respectfully submitted,

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